

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE ITALIAN OPERA.

The Theatre last night was crowded to its utmost capacity, and many were unable to obtain seats. In consequence of the indisposition of Mons. Jucos, "Il Furto" could not be performed, as announced; but the substitution of Donizetti's beautiful opera "Lucia di Lammermoor" in a great measure mitigated the disappointment of the audience. On this occasion the celebrated American Prima Donna, Madame Cora de Willfort, took the character of Lucia, and the highest appreciation of her exquisite vocalization was shown in the rapt and almost breathless attention of the assemblage, and their oft-repeated applause. Signor Labocetta sustained the part of Edgardo in a very satisfactory manner; and the acting in the scene where Edgardo casts off Lucia on learning of the fact of her marriage with his rival, could scarcely be excelled. Signor Aniceto appeared as Enrico, Signor Barilli as Raimondo, and Signor Rubbo as Arturo. Madame Willfort possesses a very clear and sweet voice, and her trills and flourishes showed a thorough artistic cultivation and great taste in execution. Universal regret is expressed that the engagements of Mr. Strakosch's company prevented their longer stay in Washington. They are announced to sing in Philadelphia to-morrow evening, and we are informed that every seat in the house is already engaged.

MERCHANTS, LOOK OUT!—Within a day or two past several complaints have been made against merchants on the avenue for a violation of the law in regard to obstructing the sidewalks. It may not be generally known that the law requires all awnings to be at least eight feet above the sidewalk, and where they are supported by poles, that the poles shall be within one foot of the curbstone. No less than ten complaints for violations of this law were made before Justice Thompson, who issued warrants in the several cases, and the offending parties walked up and paid their fines with a good grace, recommending, at the same time, that the law be strictly enforced against all who may violate its provisions. The most amusing part of the affair is, that the gentleman who commenced this crusade by giving information against his neighbors was caught napping himself. We make this statement in order that all persons interested may take due notice and govern themselves accordingly.

AUSTRALIA AND THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE.—The generality of people consider travelling a great bore. They hate the noise and the dust, and the extortionate landlords, and the swindling hackmen, by which one is sure to be plagued. But there is one way of "doing" it, all the sights and wonders of foreign countries, by which dust, noise, hackmen, and landlords may be happily avoided—it is by travelling with the eyes! You will find this a much more pleasant and instructive method than you imagine. For instance, if you wish to take a peep at those queer people, the Chinese, you can do so without running the risk of having your throat cut with Celestial cut-throats, by going only as far as Odd-Fellows' Hall, where Bonnet's great panorama is on exhibition. There, too, you can see spread out before you the island-continent of Australia. It is truly a grand sight. The wonderful scenes depicted make the eyes of both young and old cry to their fullest extent.

CITY ORDINANCES.—During the past week the Mayor has signed the act making the usual appropriations for the contingent and other expenses of the Public Schools for the year ending June 30, 1859; an act making an appropriation of \$150 for the relief of the Franklin Fire Company; an act appropriating \$190 65 for the purpose of paying a deficiency for grading and graveling B street north, between First and Second streets east; an act authorizing the Mayor to pay Thomas Hallan \$350 in full satisfaction for all damages and injuries sustained by his dwelling house, in consequence of the flooding of his cellar, arising from the neglect of the Corporation to provide proper drainage for that locality; and an act authorizing the Mayor to pay the several Assessors for the work in which they are now engaged under the authority of the Corporation.

THE LOWS BARRIO is again open for travel, having just been placed in a state of substantial repair by the laying of two new iron railways under the south draw. The bridge, under the active superintendence of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, is now in a condition to withstand the most severe storms and winds of the winter season. Particular attention has also been paid to the construction of heavy ice-breakers along the north side, which are now placed as to defy the action of the ice when breaking up during the spring freshets, and as to offer effective resistance to damage by almost any collision. The two draws are kept in constant action by the frequent passage and repassage of lumber, coal, and other heavy freight bottoms.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—Our readers will be gratified to learn that the Board of Managers of the Washington Monument Society have begun to make preparations, so far as they are in the present state of their affairs, to recommence the work. The have possession of the lot in the west wing of the City Hall, where J. C. Brent, esq., their secretary, can be consulted by persons desirous of affording any assistance in the way of money or otherwise. Now that the society's affairs are again in possession of the only board of managers who ever afforded any real service in its management, we expect confidently to witness a change for the better, and a resumption of the work of erection at no distant day.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.—Rev. John Robb will preach this morning at eleven o'clock, in the Second Baptist Church, on New York avenue, and Rev. R. H. Richards will preach at the same place at four o'clock this afternoon.

High mass will be sung at St. Patrick's church to-day at eleven o'clock, by the celebrated French Mountaineer Singers. A collection will be taken up on that occasion, for the benefit of the Orphan Asylum.

Rev. Mr. Bassett will preach this afternoon at half-past three o'clock, in the Congregational Church on Fifth st., opposite the City Hall.

WASHINGTON THEATRE.—To-morrow evening the theatrical company will re-appear, sustained by reinforcements from the Holiday Street Theatre in Baltimore, and in connection with the favorite comedian, John E. Owens, who will take the character of John Unit, in the comedy of "Self." Mrs. Taylor will appear as Mrs. Badin, Mrs. Muzzy as Mrs. Apex, and Mr. H. F. Daly as Mr. Apex. The farce entitled "The Windmill" will close the entertainment. The simple announcement that Owens is to appear will be sufficient to fill the house.

ART ASSOCIATION.—By a notice to be found elsewhere, the members of the Washington Art Association will perceive that their annual meeting will be held in their new gallery, over Sibley & Guy's warehouse, to-morrow evening.

"GLEANER'S Weekly Line-of-Battle-Ship" has made its appearance, and is a large and splendid paper. Clementson has it for sale at the news stand in Browns' Hotel.

THE CIRCUIT COURT was yesterday engaged in hearing appeals cases of no general interest.

CALIFORNIA STEAMSHIP LINE, via NICA-MERICAN, ATLANTIC, AND PACIFIC SHIP CANAL COMPANY PROPRIETORS—RECEIVED FAIRLY.

The splendid steamer WASHINGTON, (2,000 tons), Capt. HENRY (TUBBIE), having been dispatched expressly for the California trade, will leave New York on Saturday, the 6th inst., at 10 o'clock, for San Francisco, California, carrying passengers, mails, and freight to San Juan del Norte, to connect at San Juan del Sur with the well-known and commodious steamship

HERMAN, Capt. Convery, for San Francisco, California.

These steamships offer unsurpassed accommodations for the comfort and safety of passengers. The cabins are thoroughly repaired, and in good order, and the company healthy.

For passage and freight, apply only at the office of the agent, No. 3 Bowling Green, New York.

JOSEPH P. YELVERTON, Agent.

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